

Reply	Reply All	Forward
Delete	Close	



Move to folder:

UCC



Message: 12 of 289

< [Previous](#) | [Next](#) >

From: "Rev. Dr. Timothy Downs" <tdowns@secucc.org> [Save Address](#) [Reminder](#)
 To: michaelstroud@bellsouth.net
 Subject: Leaders Link From Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ
 Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2008 10:26:21 AM [[View Source](#)]



SEC Leaders Link

Transforming Churches, Transforming Lives

October/November 2008, Issue 5

In This Issue

Concerns and Celebrations

Conference News

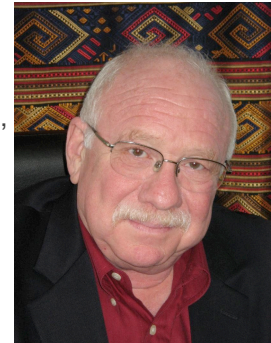
[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Quick Links

[Learn more about our TAP Program](#)
[Ministry Resources](#)
[2008 SEC Leadership Development Seminars](#)
[Congregational Vitality](#)

Dear Mike,

This letter comes to you as we enter our fall programming at full tilt. Kathy Clark is back from sabbatical, there are new TAP classes starting in Montgomery, AL and Thomasville, GA, our new Conference Board of Directors had its first meeting, and we are reporting on the results of the exploratory phase leading to the possibility of a capital campaign for the Conference.



Over the summer we welcomed a new support staff person, Adrienne Singley-Candido, and hosted the New Church Leadership Institute for the United Church of Christ. There are also updates to the listing of Covenant Keeper Congregations and other information about local churches. I look forward to being with many of you in the course of visiting congregations and associations over the fall!

The United Church of Christ is preparing to launch a new round of Still Speaking Ads on cable television between September 29 and October 12. We urge all congregations to be ready for the possibility of an increase in visitors. To see the ad and information about it go to: <http://www.ucc.org/allthepeople/>. If you need some ideas about how to be ready for it, don't hesitate to contact us.

Please do not overlook the listing of resources and opportunities linked to this communication. There are many ways for your congregation to be engaged in mission and ministry throughout the Conference, across the nation and around the world!

Peace,

Tim Downs
Conference Minister

Concerns and Celebrations

Pastors of our dynamic new and newly affiliated churches from across the Conference have been invited to an introduction to the United Church of Christ, its offices and leaders to be held in Cleveland, OH. Invited to this special opportunity this fall are **Cindy Andrews-Looper**, pastor of Holy Trinity Community UCC, Nashville, **Andy Sidden** pastor of Garden of Grace UCC, Columbia, SC, **Candace Chellew-Hodges**, associate pastor of Garden of Grace, **Susannah Davis**, pastor of Kirkwood UCC, Atlanta, **Susie Smith**, pastor of Peace Congregational UCC, Clemson, SC, **Lewis Kola**, pastor of Emmanuel Christian Church (UCC), Norcross, GA, and **Anita Hauenstein**, member of Brookmeade Congregational UCC, Nashville, and leader of a Nashville Comma Connection.

Cindy Benz, who served as interim pastor at Fairfield Glade Community Church Fairfield, TN, has announced the end of her interim on October 14 as the congregation prepares to welcome its new pastor. Cindy's husband, Steve, recently left the position of Presbytery Executive in East Tennessee Presbytery, and is moving to a Presbytery in Western Pennsylvania.

We received word from **Debbie Douglas**, student in care of Alabama-Tennessee Association, and member of Pleasant Hill Community UCC, TN, that she is settling in at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, and eager to start her journey of preparation for ordained ministry.



Walter Brueggemann, retired as Professor of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary, and member of Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta, has alerted the Conference that he has moved to Cincinnati, OH this summer, where he plans to retire.

[Read more...](#)

Conference News and Announcements

The 12th Annual Winter Youth Retreat will be held January 16-19, 2009 (MLK, Jr. Weekend). This collaborative event between the youth of the Southern and Southeast Conferences has become a widely anticipated tradition. Registrations packets were mailed out mid-September, and registration will begin at the end of November. For information, or if you wish to volunteer to assist call Kristin Gerner Vaughn at (336) 402-2897.



The Southeast Conference provided about 100 volunteers from a number of our congregations to the UCC National Youth Event, held in Knoxville, TN, July 25-27. The event has been described as "the best ever!" Volunteers were coordinated by Ann Harvey of



Church of the Savior, UCC, Knoxville, and came from Church of the Savior, Pleasant Hill Community UCC, TN, Holy Trinity Community UCC, Nashville, Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta, and a number of other congregations. Thank you to all who extended a Southern welcome to the UCC!

Tom Warren, pastor of Pleasant Hill Community UCC, TN., and his wife **Kim Miller** spent their sabbatical this summer exploring the social changes unfolding in Guatemala, Venezuela, and Cuba. They have a Power Point, and want to engage in conversation with other local churches about their experience. They are interested in the possibility of organizing an emersion experience in Venezuela for the Southeast Conference to learn more about the Bolivarian Revolution. Please contact Tom at phcc@frontiernet.net if you would like Tom and Kim to visit your church.

[Read more...](#)

News From Around the Conference

We are pleased to announce that **Charles Traylor** has been elected the new pastor of **Fairfield Glade Community Church**, Fairfield Glade, TN. Charles was the Presbytery Executive of the North Dakota Presbytery, and is a pastor in the PCUSA. Our congratulations to him and to the congregation.

Garden of Grace, UCC, Columbia, SC, celebrated its 15th anniversary on August 24th. Their guest preacher for the occasion was **Michael Piazza**, Dean of the Cathedral of Hope, a UCC congregation in Dallas, TX

While not strictly speaking a congregation, we are proud to report that Talladega College, a school related to the UCC, has had a dramatic increase in enrollment for the fall semester. They have recently hired a new president, **Dr. Billy Hawkins**, who has initiated a major recruitment campaign.

Pilgrimage UCC, Marietta, GA, has called **Heidi Schuler** to be their Minister of Christian Education and Youth. Heidi was recently the coordinator of the Southeast Conference Mountain Mission Project, and is a recent graduate of Candler School for Theology. Heidi is a student in care of the Georgia South Carolina Association.



Many of you are aware of the tragic violence in July at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville, TN. A number of people were killed and others injured by a single gun man during a worship service on Sunday, July 27th. We are deeply proud to report that the UCC youth who were attending the UCC National Youth Event at the same time, in Knoxville responded with a banner of greetings and condolences signed by thousands. The Youth of **Church of the Savior UCC**, Knoxville took this banner to the Tennessee Valley UCC congregation declaring in the words of M.L. King, Jr., and "darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that." John Thomas, General Minister and president of the UCC saw the television coverage of the youth of Church of the Savior and sent a letter saying in part "your witness in Knoxville is something you do on behalf of all of us."

[Read more...](#)

There are many more resources to support your ministries on our Conference website. Call the

Conference office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Timothy Downs
Conference Minister
Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ



Forward email

 **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to michaelstroud@bellsouth.net by tdowns@secucc.org.
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Southeast Conference of the UCC | 1330 West Peachtree Street | Atlanta | GA | 30309

> [Change your options to hide images within all messages.](#)